

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

WELLINGBOROUGH,

for the year 1908.

WELLINGBOROUGH :
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Annual Report

for the year 1908.



*The Chairman and Councillors of the Wellingborough Urban District
Council, Wellingborough.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1908, to the Urban Sanitary District of Wellingborough.

The number of inhabited houses in 1908 was 4,694, and if we allow $4\frac{1}{2}$ persons to each house, this gives us the population of 21,083. The following rates have been estimated at a population of 21,000. There were 56 new houses erected.

The number of Births was 414—Boys 196, Girls 218. Of this number, 25 were illegitimate, giving a birth-rate of 19·7. This is a marked increase on last year. I would also like to mention that it is the first time in my experience that there were more girls born than boys.

The number of Deaths was 258 at all ages. Of these, 101 were of persons over 65, and 43 in children under one year.

There were 30 deaths of non-residents, and this number deducted from the above gives 228, and a death-rate of 10·8, which, with the exception of last year, is the lowest during the last 12 years.

There is an increase in the deaths of children under one year, but last year was unusually low, and this year, on the whole, compares very favourably with former years. There were 11 deaths from Premature Birth. The death-rate of children under one year per 1,000 births registered is 103·8. Further details can be seen in Table V.

WHOOPING COUGH. There were 10 deaths in the spring and early summer, all (except two) in children under one year of age.

The number of infectious diseases notified throughout the year were as follows : Diphtheria 3, Erysipelas 16, Enteric 1, Scarlet Fever 101. Total 121, being 5·2 per 1,000. Until the month of October, the number of notifications were far below the average, viz : only 29 for for nine months, and of these 16 were Erysipelas.

SCARLET FEVER. The epidemic of Scarlet Fever began in October, when there were 29 cases notified, followed by 31 cases in November and 27 in December. Total with those in the early part of the year was 101. Every precaution was taken, but in several cases the notifications were not sent in until the patient was in a state of desquamation, and it was almost impossible to trace the origin, or tell how many had contracted the disease from these cases. Eleven cases were imported, 31 arose from direct contagion, 37 seem to have been contracted at school, while in 11 the source of infection was untraceable.

There have been no deaths from any of the notifiable diseases. Twenty-five Scarlet Fever patients were sent to the Isolation Hospital during the year. Considering the prevalence of Scarlet Fever in the surrounding neighbourhood, I think we have been extremely fortunate. The disease seems to be of a very mild type, and in several cases the children have never been laid up or even kept in until discovered to be desquamating.

Proper and efficient disinfection was carried out in all houses and the rooms where Scarlet Fever cases were treated, and isolated in spare rooms when the cases could not be moved, as many were too young.

DIPHTHERIA. There were three cases of Diphtheria. One arose from a defective state of the drains, which have since been rectified, in another case it was probably contracted away from the town, and in the third there was no apparent cause.

TYPHOID. The only case notified was imported.

PHTHISIS. There were 19 deaths from Phthisis, which, although more than last year, compares favourably with some of the previous years, viz: in 1901—22, 1902—16, 1903—19, 1904—22, 1905—14, 1906—17, 1907—14.

BRONCHITIS. There were a few more deaths than last year, but chiefly in people over 70 years.

PNEUMONIA. There was a marked decrease in the number of deaths from this disease. This year there were only 13, and last year 23.

CANCER. There were 12 deaths from this disease, a decided decrease from last year, when there were 20, and of these 4 were in people over 70, and all the others between the ages of 25 and 65.

HEART DISEASE. A slight decrease this year, viz: 1908—23, 1907—25, In this year most of the deaths were over 45 years.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. The Isolation Hospital for Zymotic Diseases is in good order, and 25 cases have been satisfactorily treated this year. There were no deaths. A new bathroom has been provided. The spare room in the house for nurses will be used for extra cases and convalescents. The hospital is situated in an elevated position, about $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile from the town. A new Ambulance Van for the removal of infectious cases has been provided.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL. This is well isolated, about a mile from the town, and is in good order and ready for use.

WATER SUPPLY. There is a plentiful supply of good sound water, and it is hoped that the new system of softening, etc., will be satisfactory. In the town where the water in wells has been found polluted, the wells have been closed and the town water laid on.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES. These have been visited regularly and inspected, and where defects were discovered they have been promptly remedied, and drainage and whitewashing have been carried out.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES and MILKSHOPS. There are 17 Cowsheds, 40 Dairies and Milkshops, which, when visited, were found in a satisfactory condition, and all registered. Any defects were immediately corrected. Cowkeepers were strongly urged to be especially careful in the Milking of the Cows, and to observe the greatest cleanliness in all things connected with the milk.

HOUSE REFUSE. This is collected weekly throughout the town, removed by carts to a proper place outside the district, and destroyed by incineration. In the hot weather I would like to see two collections in the week if it could be arranged.

Regular and systematic inspections of the district have been made by myself and the Sanitary Inspector. Several nuisances have been abated. Nine dirty and dilapidated houses have been cleaned and repaired, and about 30 houses thoroughly cleaned. There are two registered lodging-houses. These as well as others have been visited periodically.

OFFENSIVE TRADES. There are three offensive trades in the town, Tallow Chandler, Gut Scraper and Tripe Boiler. These premises on being visited were found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory state. There were no detected cases of meat, game or fruit unfit for human food. Four cwt. of fish was surrendered voluntarily. There have been several improvements in the centre of the town, and when all the contemplated improvements have been completed, I feel sure there will be general satisfaction.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS. This Act has been in force since May 23rd, and 215 births have been notified. The Lady Health Visitor has been supplied regularly with the names and addresses, and she has visited many of the homes. The mothers have in nearly all cases been glad to see her, and in several instances have invited her in again to ask questions. I think many of the mothers have been very thankful for her practical help and advice. There is no doubt her services have been greatly appreciated throughout the town and neighbourhood.

The requirements of the Factories and Workshops Act of 1901 have been duly attended to and enforced. Where notices have been served for improvements or alterations, they have been properly carried out.

There were 342 Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Laundries, and 39 written notices served. The defects found were 63, viz: 32 want of cleanliness; none, want of ventilation; overcrowding, 1; want of drainage to floors, 2; insufficient sanitary accommodation, 9; defective ditto, 4; 3 not separate for sexes; breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses, 12. All these cases were remedied.

HOME-WORK. Lists received from employers twice in the year. Wearing apparel, 16. Outworkers, 257; paper boxes outworkers, 10. Basket making, 2; outworkers, 10. Addresses received from other Councils, 50. Number of inspections of outworkers premises, 160; outwork in unwholesome premises, 2; notices served, 2. Registered Workshops, 180.

Matter notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories: failure to affix abstract of the Factory and Workshops Act, 2; reports of actions taken, sent to H.M. Inspector, 9.

UNDERGROUND BAKEHOUSES. Certificates granted, 2.

The Population has slightly increased. The Birth-rate is considerably higher than last year. The Death-rate is not so low as in 1907, but on examining the tables it will be seen that the increase is in persons over 65 years, viz: 101, and in children under one year, viz: 43. Among the former there were 26 from Senile Decay, and in the latter 11 from Premature Births. There were also 5 deaths from accidents and one from suicide.

On the whole it will be seen the health of the town is good, and will compare very favourably with other towns of the same size.

I beg to thank Mr. Madge, the Sanitary Inspector, for his valuable help throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

WM. WAKE CLARK, M.D., &c.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Table I. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT	Deaths of Non-registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	17,406	502	28·8	68	135·45	219	12·38				243	12·1
1899	17,740	458	25·8	73	155·02	265	14·37				230	12·5
1900	18,074	489	27	58	116·50	256	14·16	33	13		216	11·1
1901	18,412	529	28·7	59	111·5	236	12·8	36	6		213	10·7
1902	19,400	438	22·57	56	127·8	221	11·4	32	5		225	11·14
1903	19,872	511	25·7	50	97·8	232	11·68	42	19		207	10·1
1904	20,180	482	23·8	61	127·3	250	12·3	54	25		226	10·8
1905	20,480	461	22·5	54	117·1	225	10·9	32	18		205	9·8
1906	20,780	437	21·02	48	109·8	238	11·4	44	12			
1907	20,810	387	18·5	29	74·9	217	10·4	41	12			
Averages for years 1898-1907	19,315·4	469·4	24·4	55·6	117·3	235·9	12·15					
1908	21,000	414	19·7	43	103·8	258	12·2	55	30		228	10·8

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area covered by water).

3905.

Total Population at all ages—18,412.
Number of inhabited houses—4,694.
Average number of persons per house—4·5.

At Census of 1901.

<p>I.</p> <p>Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.</p>	<p>II.</p> <p>Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.</p>	<p>III.</p> <p>Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.</p>
<p>UNION WORKHOUSE</p>		
<p>Is the Union Workhouse within the District? YES.</p>		

Table II. Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.

Names of Localities.	1.				2.				3.				4.				5.				6.				7.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year.
YEAR.																												
1898	17,406	502	219	68																								
1899	17,740	458	265	73																								
1900	18,074	489	256	58																								
1901	18,412	529	236	59																								
1902	19,400	438	221	56																								
1903	19,872	511	232	50																								
1904	20,180	482	250	61																								
1905	20,480	461	225	54																								
1906	20,780	437	238	48																								
1907	20,810	387	217	29																								
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907	19,315.4	469.4	235.9	55.6																								
1908	21,000	414	258	43																								

Table III. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.						NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.							
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8					
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards													
Small-pox																				
Cholera																				
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) }	3	1	1		1															
Erysipelas	16	1			2	7	6													
Scarlet fever	101	1	26	63	6	2														
Typhus fever																				
Enteric fever	1				1															
Relapsing fever... ..																				
Continued fever																				
Puerperal fever																				
Plague																				
Totals - - -	121	1	28	67	10	9	6													

Total available beds, 13. Isolation Hospital, Wellingborough Urban District.
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, one.

Table IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

(See notes on next page.)

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or non- Residents in Public Institutions in the District. 16
	All ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 5. 4	5 and under 15. 5	15 and under 25. 6	25 and under 65. 7	65 and upwards. 8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Small-pox															
Measles															
Scarlet fever.....															
Whooping-cough	10	8	2												
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)															
Croup															
Fever { Typhus															
Enteric.....															
Other continued															
Epidemic influenza ...	5					2	3								1
Cholera															
Plague															
Diarrhœa (<i>See notes</i> on next page)	2	2													1
Enteritis <i>do.</i>	1	1													
Puerperal fever <i>do.</i>															
Erysipelas															
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	19			1	4	14									4
Other tuberculous diseases	1				1										
Cancer, malignant di- sease (<i>See notes</i> on next page)	12					8	4								8
Bronchitis	18	3				3	12								2
Pneumonia	13	1	2			8	2								1
Pleurisy															
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs															
Alcoholism }															
Cirrhosis of liver }															
Venereal diseases															
Premature birth	11	11													
Diseases and accidents of parturition															
Heart diseases.....	23				1	11	11								6
Accidents	5	1	1	1		1	1								
Suicides	1				1										
Senile decay.....	26						26								12
Meningitis	2		2												
Convulsions	3	2		1											
Rheumatic fever	3				1	2									
Want of breast milk ...	4	4													
Marasmus	5	5													
All other causes	64	5	3	1	3	29	23								20
All causes	228	43	10	4	11	78	82								55

Notes to Tables IV. and V.

- (a) In Table IV., all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be *included* with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be *included* among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be *excluded* from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of Table IV.
- (b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" in Table IV. should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.
- (c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of Table IV. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.
- (d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15 of Table IV. should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-columns c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of Table IV. should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.
- (e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths registered as due to Epidemic diarrhœa, Epidemic enteritis, Infective enteritis, Zymotic enteritis, Summer diarrhœa, Dysentery and Dysenteric diarrhœa, Choleraic diarrhœa, Cholera and Cholera Nostras.
Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.
Deaths from Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis, and Gastritis (see under the heading Diarrhœal Diseases in Table V.) in Tables IV. and V. should be placed immediately below, but separately from, those enumerated under the heading Diarrhœa as defined by enumeration above. This is particularly important for deaths under one year of age, as many of the deaths in infancy returned as due to Enteritis are really caused by Epidemic Diarrhœa. In the course of years, by the adoption of this recommendation, it will be practicable to ascertain the probable amount of transfer between these different headings.
- (f) Under the headings of "Cancer" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms. Thus: Under "Cancer" should be included deaths from Cancer, Carcinoma, Malignant disease, Scirrhus, Epithelioma, Sarcoma, Villous tumour, and Papilloma of bladder, Rodent ulcer. Under "Puerperal fever" are to be included deaths from Pyæmia, Septicæmia, Sapræmia, Pelvic peritonitis, Peri- and Endo-Metritis occurring in the Puerperium.
- (g) Under "Congenital Defects" in Table V. are to be included deaths from Atelectasis, Icterus neonatorum, Naval hæmorrhage, Malformations and Congenital hydrocephalus.
- (h) Under "Tuberculous Meningitis" are to be included deaths from Acute hydrocephalus.
- (i) Under "Other Tuberculous Diseases" are to be included deaths from Tuberculosis, Tuberculosis of bones, joints and other organs, Lupus and Scrofula.
- (j) All deaths certified by registered Medical Practitioners and all Inquest cases are to be classed as "Certified"; all other deaths are to be regarded as "Uncertified."

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III., IV. and V., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

WM. W. CLARK, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

January 29th, 1909.

Table V. Infantile Mortality during the year 1908.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes.	Certified																	
	Uncertified																	
i. Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox																	
	Chicken-pox																	
	Measles																	
	Scarlet Fever																	
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croop) } Whooping Cough						1	1				2	1		2	1		8
ii. Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Diarrhoea, all forms														1	1		2
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis } Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh } (See Notes to Table IV.)												1					1
	Premature Birth	8		2	1	11												11
	Congenital Defects..... (See Notes to Table IV.)		1			1												1
iii. Wasting Diseases.	Injury at Birth																	
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation } Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus }							1		3								4
				1		1		2			1							4
iv. Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis... (See Notes to Table IV.)																	
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: } Tabes Mesenterica }																	
	Other Tuberculous Diseases }																	
	(See Notes to Table IV.)																	
v. Other Causes.	Erysipelas																	
	Syphilis																	
	Rickets																	
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous) }																	
	Convulsions	1				1				1								2
	Bronchitis						1	1						1				3
	Laryngitis																	
	Pneumonia								1									1
	Suffocation, choking									1								1
	Other causes	1	*	1		2	1			1						1		5
		10	1	4	1	16	3	5	1	6	1	2	2	1	3	3		43

DISTRICT OF WELLINGBOROUGH.

Births in the year { legitimate 389.
illegitimate 25.Population estimated to middle
of 1908—21,000.

Deaths from all Causes at all ages—228.

Non-residents—30.

Total—258.

For notes on this Table see page 12.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES and HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	60	6	
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)	260	30	
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report.)	22	3	
Total	342	39	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	32	32		
Want of ventilation	0	0		
Overcrowding	1	1		
Want of drainage of floors	2	2		
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	9	9	
	unsuitable or defective	4	4	
	not separate for sexes	3	3	
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (s. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	12	12		
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report.)				
Total	63	63		

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—HOME WORK.

OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.															OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.		
NATURE OF WORK. (1)	Lists received from Employers.						Addresses of Outworkers.		Prosecutions.		In- spections of Out- workers' premises (13)	Instances (14)	Notices served. (15)	Prose- cutions. (16)	Instances (17)	Orders made (S. 110). (18)	Prose- cutions (Sections 109, 110). (19)			
	Sending twice in the year.		Sending once in the year.		Received from other Councils. (8)	Forward- ed to other Councils. (9)	Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists. (10)	Failing to keep or permit inspect- ion of lists. (11)	Failing to send lists. (12)											
	Outworkers.		Outworkers.																	
	Lists (2)	Con- trac- tors. (3)	Work- men. (4)	Lists (5)	Con- trac- tors. (6)	Work- men. (7)														
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c. (2) cleaning & washing Lace, lace curtains & nets Artificial flowers Nets, other than wire nets Tents Sacks Furniture & upholstery Fur pulling Feather sorting..... Umbrellas, &c. Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. Paper bags and boxes... Basket making Brush making Racquet and tennis balls Stuffed toys File making Electro-plate Cables and chains Anchors and grapnels ... Cart gear Locks, latches & keys Pea Picking	16	257				15	50				160	2	2							
Total	18	277				15	50				160	2	2							

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)		Number. (2)
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses may be enumerated here.		180
	Total number of workshops on Register	180

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)	Number. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory & Workshop Act (s. 133) ...	2
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) <div> { Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector. } </div>	9
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	
In use at the end of the year	2

WM. W. CLARK, M.D.,

January 29th, 1909.

Medical Officer of Health.